



By the King.



Hereas the custody and safe keeping of our severall Counties and Shires of our Realme of England, are by our ancient Common lawes committed to severall Shiriffes, being ancient Conservators of the Peace, and Ministers of Justice within the same, who by force of their Offices may assemble, and take the power and strength of our sayd Counties and Shires committed to their charge, not onely for the due execution of Justice, but also for the preservation of our Peace, and the speedy and timely dissolution and suppressing of all Insurrections, Rebellions, outrageous Riots, Routes, and other exorbitant and unlawfull assemblies, to the end that such dangerous attempts might bee suppressed in their beginnings, and our loving Subjects live and exercise their severall vocations in all peace and plenty: The good effect of the execution of which Lawes hath well appeared, in that the most detestable and diabolicall Rebellion of Percy and his Complices in our Counties of Warwicke, Worcester, and Stafford, (that had bene so secretly contrived, and so long in hatching) was by the peaceable Ministers of our Lawes, and by due execution of their Offices, without any extraordinary power or forces, most loyally, resolutely, and speedily suppressed: And whereas some question or scruple hath bene (as wee are enforced) mooved amongst some of the vulgar, whether any of our Sheriffes may, with the power of their severall Counties or Shires, in pursuit of Rebels and Traitors, follow them into any other County, Albeit by the Lawes of this Realme, Sheriffes, as it falleth out in dayly experience, in private cases betweene party and party (matters of no such eminent and publike danger and consequence as this is) iustly and lawfully doe the like, whereof wee presume few or none can be ignorant: Yet wee meaning to give satisfaction to all, doe hereby publish and declare, That such pursuit of Rebels and Traitors into other Counties, is not onely in such cases lawfull and iustifiable, But, that if any of our Subjects being thereunto required by any of our Sheriffes, shall not follow and assist them in such pursuit, that they are to bee severely and sharply punished for their high contempt and offence in that behalfe.

But if in such pursuite the Sheriffe of the same Countie or Shire (whereunto such Rebels or Traytors shal flye or escape) shall also come with the power of his Countie before such Rebels or Traytors bee apprehended or suppressed, Then the Sheriffe so pursuing from any



other Countie or Shire shall assist and toyne With the Sheriffe in his proper Countie or Shire, for the apprehension or suppressing of such Rebels and Traytors. And if such Rebels or Traytors shall flie or escape into any house or other place of strength and defence, and shall not yeeld themselves being thereunto required by the Sheriffe or any of his companie that so shall pursue them, but obstinately and wilfully make resistance, That then it shall be lawfull for every such Sheriffe so pursuing with such power and strength, as he shall collect, or shall assist him, to beate downe, burne, or otherwise wast any such house or place of defence for the better apprehension or suppressing of such Rebels and Traytors. And albeit we desire that such industrie and care may be taken, as that such offenders may be apprehended alive, Yet wee let it be knowen, that if otherwise through their rebellious obstinacy and resistance, such Rebellion cannot be suppressed; That it shall be lawfull and iustifiable in those cases of necessitie, for the Sheriffe and his Company assisting him, to kill and destroy such Traytors and Rebels. And as the faithfull endeouours of our louing Subjects with such alacrity as they haue shewed in this late Rebellion, is very acceptable vnto vs; So if in any such case any person or persons shall vnder pretence of our publique seruice, maliciously and vniustly seeke to reuenge any priuate quarrell, we let them know that they shall not escape without seuerer and condigne punishments according to their demerits in that behalfe.

Giuen at our Palace of Westminster, the nineteenth day of Nouember, in the third yeere of our Reigne of *Great Britaine, France and Ireland.*

God saue the King.

✻ Imprinted at London by Robert Barker,
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ANNO DOM. 1605.

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